GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1934
ANSWERED ON:27.07.2017
Sports Infrastructure in Schools
Suresh Shri Doddaalahalli Kempegowda

Will the Minister of YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that games and sports are considered merely to fill in their leisure hours in the schools in the country and if so, the reaction of the Government thereto;
(b) whether the Government is aware that there are a large number of schools which do not have basic infrastructure for games and sports and if so, the details thereof;
(c) whether the Government proposes to make games and sports an integral part of our education system and if so, the details thereof; and
(d) the steps taken/being taken by the Government to ensure that all the schools have basic infrastructure for games and sports in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE)
FOR YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS
(SHRI VIJAY GOEL)
(a) to (d): As Sports is a State subject, the primary responsibility for promoting sports and creating adequate sports infrastructure, including encouraging sports among students, at schools in the country is that of States. However, Department of Sports and the Sports Authority of India supplement the efforts of the States. School Games Federation of India (SGFI) and Association of Indian Universities (AIU) have been recognized by the Government of India as National Sports Promotion Organizations (NSPOs) and are eligible for the same level of assistance as are available to National Sports Federations (NSFs).
Ministry of Human Resource Development has, inter-alia, intimated that as per the National Curriculum Framework (NCF), 2005, Health and Physical Education is a compulsory subject upto X Class (CBSE) and optional subject at Higher Secondary Stage. Health and Physical Education includes age appropriate games and sports including athletics, swimming and gymnastic. National Curriculum also focuses that to transact this areas effectively, it is essential that minimum physical space and equipment's are available in every school.
Further, the Right of Children to Free and Compulsory Education (RTE) Act, 2009, has been enacted, making elementary education a Fundamental Right, which, inter alia, provides for
(i) a play ground for each school;
(ii) A part time instructor for physical education in upper primary schools;
(iii) Supply of play material, games and sports equipment, as required, to schools.
In terms of the provisions of the RTE Act, no school shall be established or recognized unless it fulfils the norms specified in the Schedule attached to the Act.
This Ministry does not maintain data relating to basic infrastructure at schools in the country. However, a Central Sector Scheme, namely, Urban Sports Infrastructure Scheme (USIS) was implemented by this Ministry during the period from 2010-11 to 2015-16 under which funds were granted to States/Union Territories (UTs) for development of sports infrastructure facilities.
A Centrally Sponsored Scheme, namely, Panchayat Yuva Krida Aur Khel Abhiyan (PYKKA) was implemented during the period from 2008-09 to 2013-14 to encourage mass participation in sporting activities. Under PYKKA Scheme, inter-alia, playfields were developed at Gram Panchayat level and Block level all over India. Under PYKKA Scheme, many of the playfields were developed in schools. PYKKA Scheme was reviewed and revised as Rajiv Gandhi Khel Abhiyan (RGKA), also a Centrally Sponsored Scheme and was implemented during the period 2014-15 and 2015-16. Under RGKA Scheme also, inter-alia, funds were granted for creation of sports infrastructure.
A new Scheme called "Khelo India − National Programme for Development of Sports", is being implemented by this Ministry as a Central Sector Scheme from the financial year 2016-17. This Scheme, inter-alia, provides for creation of sports infrastructure facilities.
Schools under Central/ State Governments are one of the eligible entities to receive grant under the erstwhile USIS and the current Khelo India Scheme. Funds were granted to schools/Universities for
creation of sports infrastructure under the erstwhile USIS as well as the current Khelo India Scheme.
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